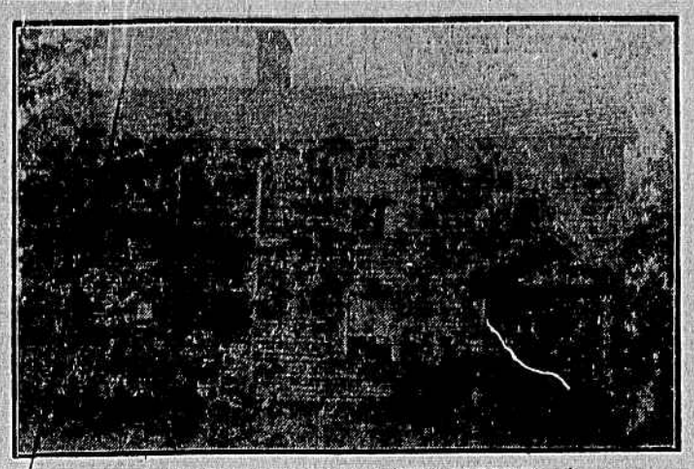
TO FIGHT OVER AGAIN THE FAMOUS BATTLES OF MANASSAS

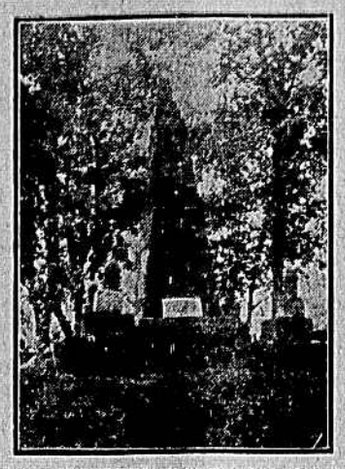
Military Manoeuvres on Big Scale to Be Held on Noted Battlefield.

LITTLE CHANGE IN THE PLACE

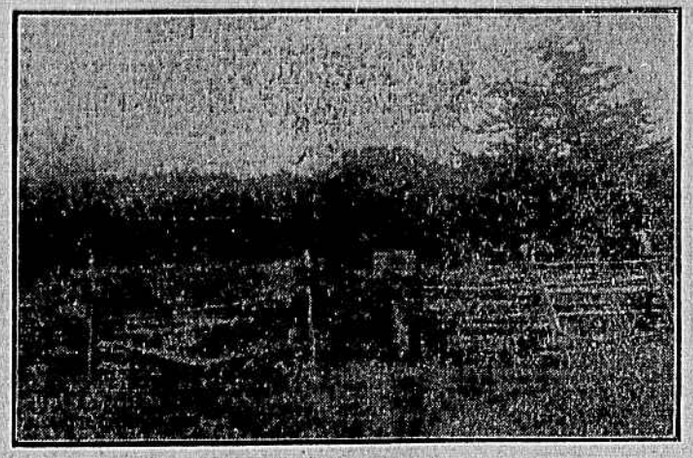
Things Look Much as They Did When the Hostile Armies Met There.



THE FAMOUS HENRY HOUSE.



MONUMENT AT MANASSAS.



FENCE BY WHICH JACKSON FOUGHT.

(From our Regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 13.—More cows have ben killed by trains on the Southern Railway at a point about one hundred yards south of the station at Manassas than at any other place on the system. This was the case from 1862 until comparatively recently, when the road was fenced and the bovines could not risk their lives on the track.

On the 25th of August, 1862, Stonewall Jackson, moving from a point near Gordonsville, got in the rear of Gen. Pope's army and destroyed enormous stores of supplies. It is said there were two miles of freight cars, loaded with every imaginable variey of food for the soldiers of Gen. Pope's army on the sidetracks at Manassas. Among these were several carloads of salt. The cars stood at a point something like a hundred yards south of where the railway station now stands. They were burned with all the rest. The salt sank down on the tracks and beside them. For days it could be seen on the ground, and much of it was carried away by the women and children of the town, for salt in the Confederacy was a luxury as well as a necessity. Then it melted and the earth became impregnated with it. The cattle soon learned this fact, and they came from far to lick the ground and thus gratify their appetite for the saline. Many of them paid for their temerity with their lives.

The salt earth at Manassas is one of the most tangible reminders to a new generation of the great struggle between the States that I know of.

The Approaching Manoeuvres.

On the fifth of September about 30,000 soldiers will be camped on the battlefield of Bull Run, and for a fortnight or more, they will march and countermarch on the historic field, working out in mimic warfare the mighty problems which their fathers, wearing blue or gray, solved to the accompaniment of the roar of cannon and the shriek of shells. The United States has never had as many men to take part in maneuvres as will participate in those to be held at Manassas this fall, and there have been none which will attract so much attention. This is due not alone to the unprecedentedly large number of men to be engaged, but largely because the movements are to be on a real battlefield, one of the most celebrated of the war.

For two battles were fought at Manassas, one practically the first of the war between the States, on July 21, 1861, and the other, on the 29th of August, 1862. Confederate soldiers have told me that at the second battle they stood nearly in the same tracks they occupied at the first battle, but shot in the opposite direction. It is one of the peculiar features of the war that two great battles should have been fought, at an interval of more than a year, at this little town of Manassas, the possession of which would appear to the non-military man to be of so little importance.

But even the layman after studying the campaigns of the war, realizes at once the strategic importance of the place, which was the centre of the railroad system of Northern Virginia, situated at the junction of the great Southern Railroad route, connecting Washington with Richmond, and the Manassas Gap Railroad, leading to the great Shenandoah Valley. The old Orange and Alexandria Railroad, running from Alexandria to Orange Courthouse, was the name given to what is now the Southern Railway, which runs on from Orange to Charlottesville, and Lynchburg.

The troops which will take part in the maneuvres at Manassas could be guided through the woods, and contours of the battlefield by the topographic maps used by Beauregard and Johnston in 1861. There has been very little change wrought in the appearance of the country. Bull Run, an insignificant stream but for its name, always muddy, flows lazily from out the Bull Run Mountains to Aquia Creek. The same farmers or their children own the farms that trembled beneath the tread of struggling armies in 1861-62. The residences and churches destroyed in the battles, have, as a rule, been restored. Many of those on the field in war-times are still standing.

The Famous Battlefield.

The battlefield of Bull Run is included in a square marked by Centreville on the east, Groveton and Gainesville on the west, Sudley Springs on the north, and Manassas on the south. Sudley Springs, no bigger and no smaller than when McDowell, with the corps of Hunter and Heintzleman, crossed Bull Run there in an attempt to take Beauregard in reverse in 1861, is almost exactly as it was on that day. The place was the right of Jackson's line in the second battle. In ante-bellum days the place was a summer resort, there being a sulphur spring nearby, but nobody goes there now to take the water.

Groverton is, if possible, changed less than Sudley. People are still living there who lived there in 1861 and 1862. One of these is Mrs. Lucinda Dogan, 87 years old, who was ordered from her house by an officer from General Jackson on the morning of the second battle. After the withdrawal of General Pope Mrs. Dogan returned to the field and assisted in the burial of the dead.

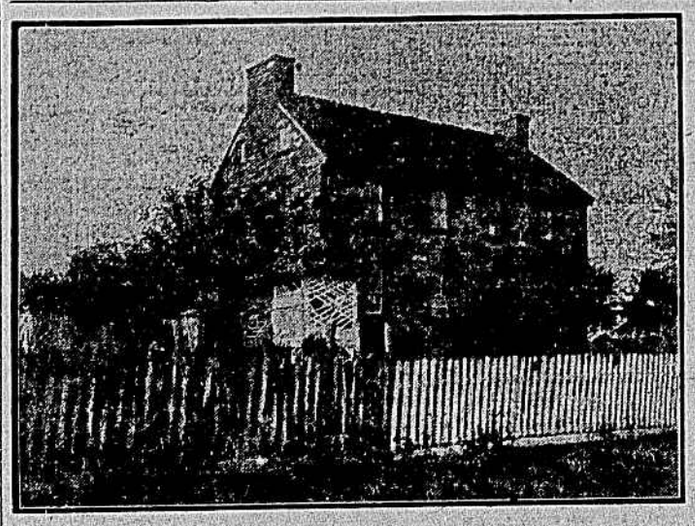
"Dead men were so thick down there by the old railroad cut I couldn't walk without stepping on a corpse," she said.

This cut, in which some of the hardest fighting of the war was done, marks the line of the Independent Railroad, projected to run from the Manassas Gap Railroad at Gainesville to Leesburg. No iron was ever laid on it, and the road was never nearer completion than it was in August, 1862, when Stonewall Jackson used it as a line of defence. Groveton is a mile west, along the Warrenton Pike from the centre of the field of the first battle of Bull Run, and one standing on a hill a few rods from the Dogan home can see the Henry house and the Henry field, where the flanking movement south from Sudley was checked by Stonewall Jackson on that Sunday in July, 1861. Mrs. Dogan saw this battle.

Longstreet Breakfasted There.

Mrs. Dogan was an important witness in the Fitz John Porter trial. She testified that Longstreet and his staff ate breakfast at her house on the morning of the 29th of August, 1862, and that his troops were coming down the pike from Gainesville while he was at her table. The contention was that there were no troops in front of Porter when he said there was, and he was convicted of cowardice. Certainly Pope did not know until late in the day that Longstreet and Jackson had united their forces.

Centreville has undergone scarcely any change since the war. Old breastworks



THE OLD STONE HOUSE.

surround the place on every side, and the Four Chimney House, McDowell's headquarters at the first battle, and the house which was Pope's headquarters in the second battle, are still standing. Blackburn's Ford is three miles from Centreville, and the appearance of the country has changed but little in forty years.

The government has erected two monuments on the field, but the property on which they stand is owned by private individuals. The monuments will eventually be destroyed by relic hunters, unless the government purchases the land on which they stand and takes steps for their protection.

The celebrated Henry house is owned and occupied by a nephew of Mrs. Judith Henry, who owned and lived in it at the time of the first battle, and was killed by a shell bursting in the house early in the action. She was bedridden at the time of her death.

On the Henry farm stakes have been driven in the earth to mark the spot where Colonel Cameron, commanding the Seventy-ninth New York Regiment, was killed, where General Bee was mortally wounded, and where Ricketts' Battery was cut to pieces by the Confederates. In a piece of wood on the field a board nailed to a tree has the inscription, "Generals Wilcox and Kirby Smith shto here."

Where "Stonewall" Jackson Stood.

But to me the most interesting of all the spots on the field was one near where a rail fence stands, just exactly where the fence stood on the 21st of July, 1861, along which Jackson's Virginians were drawn up receiving the murderous union fire when General Bee said, "There is Jackson standing like a stone wall." A placard marks the spot where General Jackson was standing.

The farmers are constantly finding reminders of the bloody battles fought on their farms around Manassas. Gun barrels, bayonets, bullets, canteens, shells, grapeshot, belt buckles, are exposed at every plowing. It is said that hunters have frequently found human skeletons in the woods, far removed from the frequented haunts of men.

The Federal government, after the war, disinterred all the bones they could find inside the Union lines, and reinterred them in Arlington National Cemetery. As the lines of the opposing armies overlapped, many Confederate soldiers were given burial in Uncle Sam's burying ground.

Down in the Manassas Cemetery, their last resting place, marked by a shaft of Manassas red sandstone, are interred those men who lost their lives fighting for the South in the first battle. This is the only Confederate monument in Virginia built with State aid. General Williams C. Wickham, one of the bravest soldiers who drew sword for the Confederacy, left the Senate chamber rather than vote against the bill making the appropriation for this monument, it is said. He was conscientiously opposed to the State beginning to appropriate funds for the erection of such monuments, as it would set a bad precedent, and he could not bring himself to vote against the bill.

There is a neglected looking burying ground at Groveton, where hundreds of Confederates who fell in the second battle are sleeping as sweetly as though tons of marble marked their last resting place. They lie within musket shot of the spot on which they gave their lives for their country.

The Two Battles.

The second battle of Manassas, or Bull Run, was by far the most important, if the number of troops engaged be taken into consideration, but it did not stir the South like the first battle. The Confederacy was used to battles and to victories when the second battle was fought, but the war was a new thing when the first battle of Manassas occurred, and when the list of dead and wounded were printed all over the country, North and South, the fearsomeness of war was, for the first time, perhaps, fully realized by the people.

The first battle also abounded in more that has been impressed upon history—the refusal of General Joseph E. Johnston to take over the command when he reached the field and found General Beauregard had planned the battle; the christening of Stonewall Jackson, the heroic death of General Bee, the capture by the Black Horse cavalry of so many pieces of artillery wedged in a compact mass on the Stone Bridge, the utter rout and flight of the Federal army to Washington—all these are spectacular features of the first battle that are absent in the greater fight of August, 1862.

The battlefield of Manassas strikes the visitor of to-day—these days when there is no war nearer than the other side of the earth, and the war for the Union is history—as being a fine place for a fight. There are few high or abrupt hills. The country is gently rolling, wooded occasionally, with here and there a stream for the horses and men. There are acres on acres as level and as smooth as a parade ground, and frequent elevations suggest locations for batteries of artillery. Strips of woodland should have been attractive to men who wished to escape flying shot and shell, and skirmishers and sharpshooters should also have found them good places for their work. At least, it all looks that way to a man who got into this world several years after Appomattox, and whose knowledge of war goes no further than watching drills and dress parades, and listening to the stories of the men who, on one side or the other, took part in the mighty struggle between the States of this Union.

The First Real Fight.

The first battle of Manassas—the battle is generally termed Bull Run by Northern people—was the first real lesson which the North and the South received in war. It probably did the North more good than it did the South, for the reason that the North was humiliated, and made to realize that it had a most serious undertaking on its hands in quelling the "rebellion," while the South, though the Federal troops fought bravely in the battle, was led to underrate the fighting qualities of the Northern soldier.

Virginia had not been out of the Union but about three months when the first battle of Manassas was fought. There had not been much fighting hitherto. The battle of Big Bethel, which was a very tame affair, and of small consequence, had been fought. General McClellan had gained one or two victories for the Northern arms in West Virginia, Harper's Ferry had been taken by Colonel Jackson, and there had been some skirmishing in the country between Manassas and Washington. The Confederates had been mobilizing at Manassas, General Joseph E. Johnston was at Winchester, in the Valley of Virginia, seventy miles away, confronted by General Patterson, with a greatly superior force. General Johnston had only eight thousand men while Patterson's force numbered eighteen thousand.

The North was pouring troops into Washington. Congress was in session, and steps had been taken to raise a large army for the subjugation of the Southern States. A call for five hundred thousand men to serve three years had been authorized. General Irvin McDowell was selected to lead an army to make the attack on General Beauregard at Manassas. McDowell did not want to attack so soon as he did, but desired to remain longer in camp at Washington and organize and drill his army. But popular sentiment at the North was strongly in favor of a forward movement that President Lincoln had to order that an advance be made. The North thought it would be easy to rout the Confederates, whose inferior force was well understood. The success which had attended General McClellan in the West Virginia campaign had greatly inspirited the people of the North, and it was thought that McDowell would have a picnic at Manassas. This was literally the popular opinion, for when at last his army marched away from Washington, it was followed by many of picnickers, male and female, who went out in carriages to witness the rout of the Confederates.

McDowell's Plan of Battle.

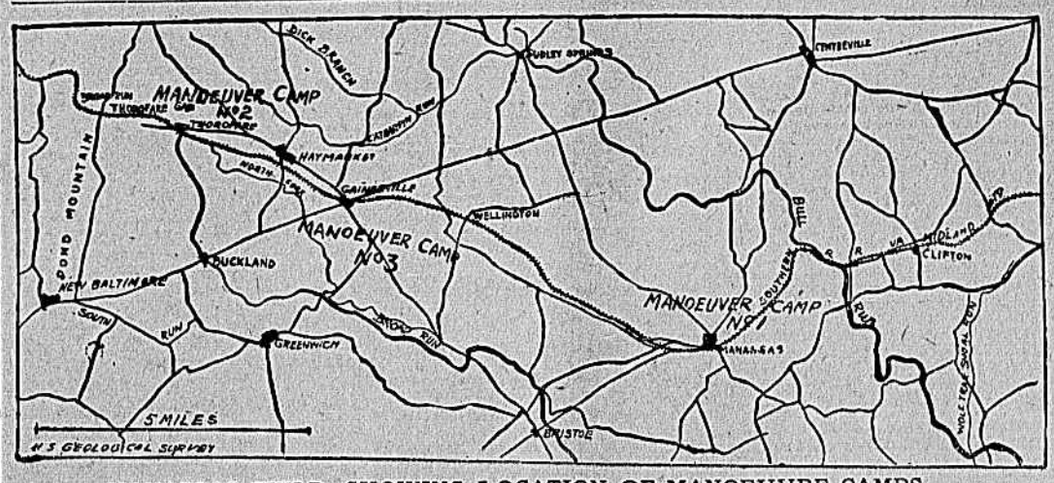
General McDowell moved his army from Washington on the afternoon of July 16th. It consisted of divisions under Generals Tyler, Hunter Heintzelman and Colonel Miles. His entire force aggregated about 35,000 men. The army marched by way of Fairfax Courthouse, where a South Carolina brigade had had an outpost, and where the first man to fall on the Confederate side had been killed on the 3d of June. This was Captain Marr, to whose memory a monument was unveiled at Fairfax last month. The place was deserted on the afternoon of the 17th, when the Federals entered the town. The troops did not reach Centreville until the next day. Centerville is on the Warrenton turnpike, about five miles from Bull Run battlefield. I cannot learn that General Beauregard knew of the character of the movement McDowell was making against him until the afternoon of the 18th. General Tyler was put in command of a reconnoitering force, which was sent out in the direction of Blackburn's Ford, a point on Bull Run about four miles from Manassas. He was ordered to observe the roads to Bull Run, but not to bring on an engagement. But Tyler told one of his officers that "the great man of the war would be the one who got to Manassas, and that he meant to go through that night." So he lined his brigade up on the bank of the stream

THE STONE BRIDGE.

doned his brigades at the various fords between the railroad and the Stone bridge; Ewell and Holmes, on the railroad, formed his right, then came the brigades of Jones and Early at McLean's Ford, then Longstreet and Jackson at Blackburn's Ford, and Bonham's Brigade at Mitchell's Ford. Colonel Evans held the Stone bridge with half a brigade. The Confederate left rested on the bridge. He did not have any troops the other side of the bridge, and it has been seen that the Federals were planning to cross the river at Sudley and take the Confederate in flank and rear.

General Joseph E. Johnston arrived on the field on the afternoon of the 20th. He had succeeded in getting away from Patterson, who had been ordered to return from Pennsylvania and hang on the Confederate rear to prevent reinforcement of Beauregard. But Patterson assured the department at Washington that Johnston had forty thousand men. He did not have but about one-fifth that number. Johnston expected to have five thousand men at Manassas to help Beauregard by the night of the 20th, but they did not arrive until the next day. Johnston, when he arrived, found that General Beauregard had made all his dispositions for the battle and though Johnston ranked him, he would not undertake the direction of the battle, but directed the execution of the plans under General Beauregard. General Beauregard's headquarters were in a brick house, about two miles from the town of Manassas in a northwesterly direction. The house is still standing.

Early on Sunday morning, the 21st General Beauregard learned that a hostile force, the head of Tyler's column, had appeared in front of Colonel Evans, at the Stone bridge. General Beauregard at once formed the conclusion that the chief attack was to be made at this point and he sent orders to Ewell, at Union Mills, to move forward and make a demonstration on the Federal flank in the direction of Centreville. This was to be



MANASSAS FIELD, SHOWING LOCATION OF MANOEUVRE CAMPS.

headquarters, had discovered the attack on their left flank, but were waiting to hear the sound of the attack which Ewell had been ordered to make on the left flank of the enemy at Centreville. But just about this time Beauregard learned that his orders for this attack had miscarried and he had to set to work to change his order of battle. The quickness with which General Beauregard worked out new combinations and the final success which they achieved, justifying them, mark a skillful commander. He left Ewell, Jones, Longstreet and Bonham at their positions at the fords to prevent the enemy in their front going to reinforce McDowell's right, but he ordered up the reserves, Early's brigade, Holmes's two regiments and a battery and two of Bonham's regiments and a battery. Jackson, with his brigade of five regiments, had been in reserve all the morning, not far from the Stone bridge. He moved his men forward, just as the Confederate line which had been reformed on the plateau was giving way. He would have been too late had he been a few minutes later. The Confederates, attacked in overwhelming numbers, were giving away at every point. Evans and Bee and Bartow were exerting themselves to rally their men, but it was impossible to make them stand. General Bee, riding up to Jackson and pointing to the shattered remnants of his own command and the remaining fragments of those of Evans and Bartow, exclaimed, "General, they are beating us back."

"Sir, we'll give them the bayonet," said Jackson, in a manner men afterwards learned to know meant a determination which only death could break.

General Bee rushed back to his men and pointing to Jackson's Virginia brigade, exclaimed: "There is Jackson, standing like a stonewall. Let us determine to die here and we will conquer."

The Spirit of Jackson.

Jackson's men continued to stand like a stonewall, but the men who had been in action so long were harder to rally, and it required the united efforts of General Johnston and General Beauregard to make the men stand. The Confederate line of battle, after reinforcements arrived, consisted of only 6,500 men, thirteen pieces of artillery and two companies of Stuart's cavalry. The force opposed to them must have been at least three times as great. The Confederate army afterwards conquered in the face of greater odds than this, but one cannot help admiring the pluck of green soldiers, who had never been under fire before, fresh from the farms, the majority of them, grimly opposing the rush of three times their number. The spirit of Stonewall Jackson was in the bosom of many a Confederate soldier that day.

The plateau on which the fighting was taking place has changed but little since the battle. It rises to an elevation of a hundred feet at the Stone bridge, but falls off in gentle slopes to the level of streams which enclose it on three sides. It stands at right angles to Bull Run. There are still standing on it clumps of trees, which afforded excellent cover for the Confederate sharpshooters.

The Federals, having about gained possession of the crest of the plateau, attempted to turn the Confederate left. Two batteries of artillery were thrown forward, but they were barely in position when they were gobbled up by the Thirty-third Virginia, which Jackson rushed forward. Many of the cannoneers were shot down and the horses killed. Fresh forces, however, were brought up, and the guns were retaken. General Beauregard then advanced the right of his line in an attempt to retake the guns. General Johnston was down at the railroad, hurrying forward the reinforcements which were coming in from his army in the Valley.

The tide of battle surged, back and forth, the Federals bringing forward finally every man that could be put in line of battle. It was about 3 o'clock in the afternoon that fresh troops under General Kirby Smith reached the field. The fresh soldiers were at once hurled on the Federal line. The batteries were captured at once, with considerable loss to the Union side. Shortly after the guns were finally taken by the Confederates General Early's brigade arrived on the field from Manassas Junction. Early's men charged the Federal right flank, doubled it up and drove it back in confusion, which presently involved the whole line. The entire Federal force was driven back across Young's Branch. The officers were utterly unable to rally their men, even beyond the reach of the Confederate guns. Every man was trying to get across Bull Run. A battalion of regular troops made a stand for the purpose of allowing the flying volunteers to cross the Warrenton road.

Degenerated Into Panic.

In his official report, General McDowell says the retreat soon degenerated into a panic. The troops fled across Bull Run, helter-skelter, and once on the road the various commands, coming together, without officers, became intermingled, and all semblance of organization was lost. Army trains and artillery, blocking the road, added to the confusion of the flight. General McDowell's army, which had expected to annihilate the Confederate force, did not stop until the banks of the Potomac were reached. Many of the soldiers did not feel safe until they had actually crossed the Aqueduct bridge and entered Washington.

The pursuit of the Federals was not pressed, for some reason which has never been made clear. It is certain that Stonewall Jackson chafed under the inactivity that marked the conduct of Johnston and Beauregard after the battle. It was his desire to throw forward the entire Confederate force and capture the routed army flying back along the road to Washington. A small body of cavalry followed the Federals as far as Cub Run, about three miles from the Stone bridge, and the Black Horse cavalry, under Captain (afterwards General) William H. Payne, captured a battery of artillery which had become blocked on the Stone bridge. There was little more done in the way of reaping the fruits of victory.

Closed the Potomac.

General Joseph E. Johnston said after the war in discussing the first battle of Manassas: "The keypoint was a flat, bare crest. It was here that the Federals made their attacks. But they were made by a brigade at a time. The position was really hardly tenable, and had the attack been made in force, with double line of battle, such as any major-general in the United States service would now make, we could not have held it half an hour, for they would have enveloped us on both flanks."

General Beauregard said after the war that had he have had seasoned veterans instead of soldiers who had never been in a battle, he would have been defeated. His men did not know when they were whipped, so kept on fighting.

Not long after the battle of Manassas, the Confederates pushed their outposts forward from Centerville and Fairfax Courthouse to Munson's Hill, almost on the banks of the Potomac. Batteries were erected at different points on the Virginia shore with a view to obstructing navigation, and in October, 1861, the flag officer of the Federal flotilla on the Potomac reported that the river was closed to navigation. The humiliating effect of this announcement was felt throughout the North, and there was talk of an attempt being made to take the Confederate entrenchments commanding the river by assault, but General Barnard, chief of the engineers who had charge of the defenses around Washington, was opposed to such a movement, and it was never made.

It was a few days more than a year before Manassas saw another battle. The Confederate army remained at Manassas until the 8th of March, 1862, when General Johnston retreated behind the Rappahannock, and the Federal army occupied the place in force in the course of a few days. General McClellan then moved a big army down the Potomac to the peninsula.

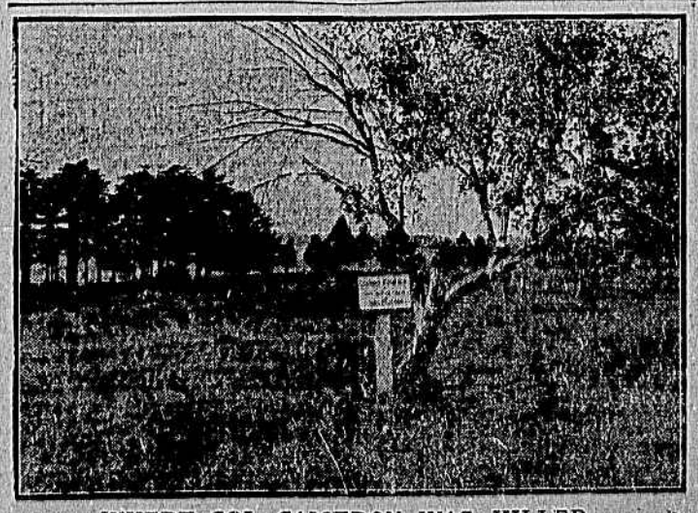
General Johnston met him at Yorktown, which was afterwards evacuated, General Johnston retreating towards Williamsburg, where he was forced back on the Chickahominy, after a hard fight. Norfolk was evacuated on the 10th of

(Continued on Ninth Page.)

Thirty Thousand Troops to Take Part in the Approaching Encampment.

REVIEW OF THE TWO BATTLES

Graphic Account of These Two Important Features of the War Between the States.



WHERE COL. CAMERON WAS KILLED.

THE ROBINSON HOUSE.